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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 32, Regional cooperation for development in Europe, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and subsequently revised by the Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and issued in document A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 32.1, 32.3 to 32.5, 32.13, 32.17, 32.18, 32.23 to 32.26, 32.29, 32.30, 32.36, 32.42, 32.46, 32.47, 32.50 to 32.52, 32.60, 32.62, 32.63, 32.65, 32.70, 32.71, 32.80 and 32.87 of A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

A. Programme

1. General orientation

Paragraph 32.1 — At the end of the paragraph, replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

Paragraph 32.3 — After the first sentence, insert "The substantial changes in the ECE region have resulted in an expanding membership, which has increased by 61 per cent since the time the medium-term plan for the period was originally drafted and has since risen to 54 members. It comprises all countries of Europe as well as countries of Central Asia, in addition to Canada, Israel and the United States of America. Among the membership, approximately half are countries in transition to a market economy, with their well-recognized special needs."

Paragraph 32.4 — Delete the third sentence.

At the end of the paragraph, add "Most recently ECE has played an active role in the CSCE Economic Forum, which held its first meeting in March 1993, and, with the establishment of the CSCE secretariat at Vienna, positive contacts between ECE and CSCE have resulted in a strengthened relationship in economic activities, particularly the organization of joint seminars."

Paragraph 32.5 — In the second sentence, replace "EEC" with "EU" and "United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement" with "North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)".

Paragraph 32.9 — After paragraph 32.9, insert new paragraphs 32.10 and 32.11 as follows and renumber the remainng paragraphs accordingly:

"32.10 The programme of workshops launched in 1990 continues to serve as the major form of ECE assistance to economies in transition. The workshops and other similar informal forums complement the Commission's regular programme of activities in promoting the process of economic reform in all sectors to which the countries in transition attach great importance. The workshops respond not only to the needs of Governments but also facilitate contacts among the business communities of the region and generate an exchange of technical know-how and expert advice.

"32.11 ECE will increasingly become a provider of technical cooperation assistance, especially in intersectoral areas and in areas where no other United Nations entity has a comparative advantage. This capacity is being enhanced by the redeployment to ECE from

headquarters of 10 Regional Advisers in 1994, who have been distributed across the entire range of ECE programmes, commensurate with the emphasis of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries in transition and its new orientation toward more operational activities."

Paragraph 32.13 — Replace paragraph 32.13 with the following:

"32.13 The Commission will, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 and 1991/51 and Commission decisions C (46), J (48) and A (49) on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, continue its work in the fields of timber and agriculture, and consider other possible areas of work. Although Governments give priority to IAEA where nuclear accidents are concerned and the Convention on Industrial Accidents, elaborated under the ECE environment subprogramme, expressly excludes nuclear accidents, ECE recognizes the continuing need for international cooperation to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Therefore, ECE will undertake country-specific activities (workshops, training and advisory services), if so requested."

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. ENVIRONMENT

Paragraph 32.17 — After "P (45)", replace the existing text with "D (46), E (46), E (47), F (48), A (49) and F (49)."

Paragraph 32.18 — At the end of the paragraph, add "and providing the central coordination for the 'environment for Europe' process. The Committee on Environmental Policy, the main intergovernmental body for the implementation of this subprogramme, has superseded the former Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems. The Commission endorsed the terms of reference of the new Committee at its forty-ninth session, in April 1994."

Paragraph 32.23 — Replace subparagraph (a) with the following:

"(a) In the field of policy and management problems: to provide policy direction for the ECE region in accordance with decision F (49); to undertake national environmental performance reviews; to strengthen the environmental policy and management capabilities of a number of countries, in particular those in transition; to develop international environmental law and promote the effective monitoring and improved implementation of and compliance with

international legal instruments, particularly in the fields of air pollution, water management, environmental impact assessment and industrial accidents; and to promote sustainable development in the region in the light of Agenda 21."

Paragraph 32.24 — In the first sentence, replace "and elaboration of" with "in the 'Environment for Europe' process and in elaborating and implementing".

Paragraph 32.25 — In the first sentence, replace "both in effect and under negotiation" with "elaborated".

At the end of the paragraph, add: "It will also undertake operational activities in countries in transition to strengthen their environmental policy and management capabilities."

SUBPROGRAMME 2. TRANSPORT

Paragraph 32.26 — Delete the reference to ECE decision A (46) and add a reference to G (48), A (49) and G (49).

Paragraph 32.29 — In the second sentence, replace "EEC" with "EU", and "will considerably influence" with "are influencing considerably".

Paragraph 32.30 — In the first sentence, replace "EEC will involve" with "EU involves".

In the second sentence, replace "will lead" with "contribute".

In the third sentence, replace "will intensify" with "intensifies".

In the fourth sentence, replace "will encourage" with "is encouraging".

Paragraph 32.33 — After paragraph 32.33, insert a new paragraph 32.34 as follows and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

"32.34 Central and Eastern European countries are encountering a number of difficulties in their transition from a planned to a market economy. In order to assist those countries in their transition process a workshop programme has been set up to provide them with a platform for informal discussion of those transport aspects which are of immediate concern to them, such as transport planning, privatization, statistics and price setting."

Paragraph 32.36 — In subparagraph (a), after "in that respect" insert ", particularly in countries in transition; and".

In subparagraph (d), in the second sentence, after "water" insert "and combined".

SUBPROGRAMME 3. STATISTICS

Paragraph 32.42 — Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

Paragraph 32.44 — After paragraph 32.44, insert new paragraphs 32.45 and 32.46 as follows and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

"32.45 The large increase in the number of ECE member countries, and the fact that most of them are in the long process of transition, has added new responsibilities to the secretariat, particularly in the area of technical assistance.

"32.46 The new involvement of OECD, EU, IMF, the World Bank and other international agencies in the affairs of ECE member countries has significantly increased the role of ECE in the coordination of international activities in the area of statistics."

Paragraph 32.46 — In subparagraph (d), replace "EEC" with "EU".

SUBPROGRAMME 4. TRADE FACILITATION

Paragraph 32.47 — Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

Paragraph 32.50 — After "international", insert "procedures and", and replace "an interregional project" with "a regional project".

Paragraph 32.51 — In the first sentence, replace "Trade Facilitation News" with "The UN/ECE Journal on Trade Facilitation and EDIFACT".

In the second sentence, replace "An interregional" with "A regional".

SUBPROGRAMME 5. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Paragraph 32.52 — Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

SUBPROGRAMME 6. ENERGY

Paragraph 32.60 — Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

Paragraph 32.62 — In the second sentence, delete ", oil" and "management training;".

Paragraph 32.63 In subparagraph (a), after "new", insert "and renewable" and replace "including mitigation of the effects of the Chernobyl accident and" with "energy".

SUBPROGRAMME 7. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Paragraph 32.65 Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

Paragraph 32.70 In the third sentence, replace "East-West Joint Ventures and Investment News" with "East-West Investment News".

SUBPROGRAMME 8. INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

Paragraph 32.71 Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

SUBPROGRAMME 9. AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

Paragraph 32.80 Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".

Paragraph 32.86 After paragraph 32.86, insert a new paragraph 32.87 as follows and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

"32.87 The initiation of regional advisory services in the European region will enable stronger support to be given to informal workshops and similar technical assistance activities in relation to the programme of work of the Commission in the agriculture and timber area, and to develop new forms of assistance, including identification and formulation of programmes and projects at the national or subregional level at the request of member countries, with a priority orientation towards facilitating through advice and training the application by countries in transition of standards, agreements and recommendations elaborated under the auspices of the United Nations/ECE."

SUBPROGRAMME 10. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Paragraph 32.87 Replace "A (46)" with "A (49)".